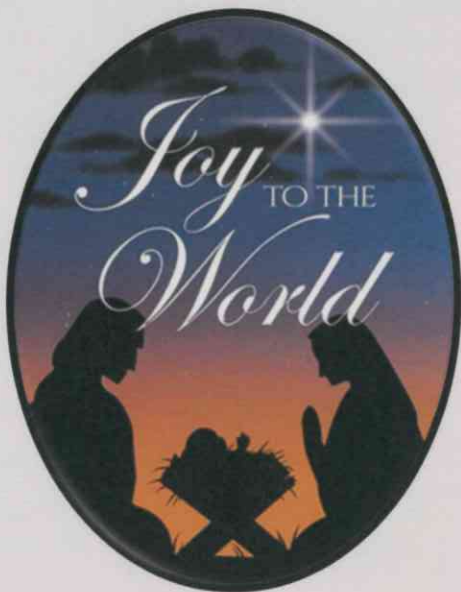


## St. Joseph Catholic Church



109 Broadway  
Milton, PA 17847

Rev. John D. Hoke

[www.stjosephmilton.org](http://www.stjosephmilton.org)

Phone: 570-742-4356

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Religious Education: [anne@stjosephmilton.org](mailto:anne@stjosephmilton.org)

Church Office: [anne@stjosephmilton.org](mailto:anne@stjosephmilton.org)

### St. Joseph is a Tithing Parish

#### God's Plan for Giving

In return for the Lord's generosity,  
our people returned to God the following:

Sunday Collection: \$6,027.00

Repair & Maintenance: \$919.00

#### Second Collections

January 1, 2023 – Solemnity of Mary

January 8, 2023 – Central & Eastern Europe,  
Latin America, Africa Missions

January 15, 2023 – Repair & Maintenance

January 22, 2023 – Our Faith, Our Future

*Lola Benoit died December 15<sup>th</sup>.*

*Our Condolences to her husband John and  
her family. May She rest in peace.*

*Her family is planning her funeral Mass  
after the New Year.*

## The Nativity of the Lord

December 25, 2022

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sat., Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>

5:00 PM

*Christmas Eve*

People of the Parish

**Mass will be at the Church**

10:00 PM

Christmas Carols

10:30 PM

Christmas Blessings

For Parish Volunteers

**Mass will be at the Church**

Sun., Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>

10:00 AM

*Christmas Day*

Christmas Blessings

For or Parish Families

**Mass will be at the Church**

Mon., Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>

9:00 AM

*St. Stephen, the First Martyr*

Elizabeth & Rudy Muscarella

by Sandy & Frank Muscarella

Tues., Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>

9:00 AM

*St. John, Apostle & Evangelist*

Margaret Wertz

by Peggy & Terry Shaw

Wed., Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>

6:00 PM

*The Holy Innocents, Martyrs*

Charlotte Farrell

by her sister Sue Sgambote

Thurs., Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>

9:00 AM

*St. Thomas Becket*

Judy Reese

by Sharon & John Adami

Fri., Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>

9:00 AM

*Feast of the Holy Family*

Judy Reese

by JoAnn & Bob Bender

Sat., Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>

4:00 PM

*New Year's Eve*

Thomas Sullivan

by Mary & Vince Emery

Sun., Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>

8:00 AM

*Solemnity of Mary*

People of the Parish

11:00 AM

In honor of the Ordination

Of Father McFadden

by the Wendt Family





## From Your Pastor,

At every Mass the priest or deacon performs a minor ritual of preparing the chalice for an offering to God. A little water is poured into the wine, while he says, "By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, Who humbled Himself to share in our humanity." In this very simple, quiet ritual, we find the mystery of Christmas, the Incarnation. God comes into our world as God, so that we might share in His nature and truly become by grace what His is. All that we are He touches and takes to Himself, even our sinfulness, without Himself becoming sinful.

The Holy Mass is both something here and now in time. It is eternal. What was, what is now, what shall become, it is eternal. As far as I can establish, one of my first religious experiences of the 'Holy', was the end of a Christmas Day, passing into the darkness of the night. All I could see outside was a very bright, starry sky. I had a sense that the beautiful Christmas Day was leaving, going up to the sky. It was sad to think it was over. Yet it was mysterious to realize what was only a few hours had become enveloped in eternity.

We have a beautiful little cemetery, well cared for all year long, and superbly decorated by our Youth at Christmas. Our new Grotto and large Crucifix help us to realize the holiness and timelessness of this small part of God's creation. It is truly holy ground. Take time to walk through and ponder the great mystery. The fathers and mothers of our parish family, who have gone before us, are not forgotten and not totally separated from 'the here and now'. Because of Baptism, they entered the dying and rising of the Lord. They lived their earthly temporal lives. Their life experiences and relationships are like the few drops of water mixed with the wine in the chalice to share in the divinity of Christ.

Recently, we have had several deaths in our parish. Each death is a challenge for us to think of time and eternity in a Catholic/Christian way. They are not dead, not destroyed by the grave, but rather they have become the 'Christmas' that never ends. Just as every Christmas throughout the ages is a participation in the first Christmas, so does time participate in eternity and eternity in time, all become one in Christ Jesus.

## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

### First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

Isaiah rejoices that God is bringing his exiled people home to Jerusalem. He calls out to the people to be glad because God will restore Jerusalem.

### Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

Paul explains to the Hebrews that although God had spoken through the prophets, people could not always completely understand the message. Now God has spoken to us by sending Jesus, the son, a reflection of God's glory and forgiver of our sins.

### Gospel: John 1:1-18

John describes how the Word came into the world in the form of Jesus. All those who accept Jesus become children of God by sharing in Jesus' love. No one has seen God, but through Jesus, God was revealed to us.

## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR SCHEDULE

### Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve

Mass at 5:00 PM at the Church

Christmas Carols at 10:00 PM at the Church

Mass at 10:30 PM at the Church

### Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day

Mass at 10:00 AM at the Church

### Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup> New Year's Eve

Mass at 4:00 PM at the Church

### Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> New Year's Day

Mass at 8:00 AM at the Church

Mass at 11:00 AM at the Parish Center

*A light will shine on us this day:  
The Lord is born for us.*

If anything should put a smile on your face and joy in your heart, it is this truth of the timelessness of Christmas and of human life. That is what it means to say, 'He came to save us from death and sin'. Merry and Joyful Christmas to you and to your loved ones.

*Fr. John D. Hoke*



## PARISH PRAYER LIST

Remember those who are sick  
in your prayers, especially:

Bob Bender	Malyssa Lenig
John Bender	Michael McHale
Lew Bogle	Andrew Mikowski
Luke Boyd	Dave Moser
Dolores Caicco	Melinda Oliveri
Leslie Cameron	Mary Ruth Palmer
Helen Choplick	Gloria Reeder
Ronan Erb	Joan Rudloff
Irene Hamilton	Dashawnda Russell
John Heimbach	Larry Seibert
Betty Johnston	Patricia Starcher
Bonnie Kauffman	Enza Welker
Christine Koons	Vickie & Joe Youmans
Andria Laurence	Andrea Rae Young
Ray Leeser	

Please contact the church office (email, call or place a note in the collection basket) if you would like to have a name added to the prayer list. The names appearing on the list are to be on for two months. You are welcome to have a name reinstated. Please spell the person's name and include your name with the request.

## GREETERS NEEDED

We plan to reestablish the Greeter Program at the Weekend Masses. If you are interested, please call Jim Seksinsky at 570-437-2992. The obligation, we expect, is Greeters would serve one Mass per month.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS IN 2023

January 1, 2023 – World Day of Peace  
January 8, 2023 – The Epiphany of the Lord  
January 13, 2023 – Filled Chicken Breast Dinner  
January 14, 2023 – Confirmation Retreat  
At our church for students in the area.  
February 1, 2023 – First day of Lottery Drawings

## FILLED CHICKEN BREAST DINNER



Friday, January 13, 2023

Following are our needs for this fundraiser:

- One person to pick up the chickens on Thursday at 10:00 AM
- On Friday, we need people to:
  - box desserts at 9:45 AM,
  - butter the chickens at 11:00 AM & at 2:00 PM
  - bag the rolls at 12:15 PM,
  - car hop a 3:30 PM,
  - work on the serving line at 3:30 PM
  - clean pots & pans at 1:00 PM & at 4:00 PM.
- Lots of people to make cakes for dessert. Cakes should be dropped off at the Parish Center by 10:00 AM Friday morning. Please no nuts of any kind. Let Tracie Leitzel know if you are bringing cakes. Her email address is [tleitzel1@ptd.net](mailto:tleitzel1@ptd.net)



## WREATHS ACROSS ST. JOSEPH CEMETERY.

On the weekend that we celebrate *Wreaths Across America*, our CCD students placed wreaths on the graves of our St. Joseph Veterans. Pictured are Brett Boyd, Amy Beaver (CCD teacher), Kyra Mortimer, Kaylee Mortimer, Madison Drollinger, Aiden Drollinger, Sophia Drollinger, Geo Custodio.



## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Lalouere, Haiti

Sacred Heart Parish, Lewisburg supports a *Sister Parish* in Haiti. This year we will be collecting to help this particular parish rather than the "No Room at the Inn" initiative.



Pictures shared with us by Sacred Heart Church.



Envelopes are posted on the bulletin boards and on the tables in our church and in our Parish Center. Please return your donation by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday & Tuesday 9:30-3:30

Wednesday 9:00-12:00

Office Phone: (570) 742-4356

If you would like to make an announcement in the bulletin, please contact the office via phone message, email or note in the collection basket.

**The office will be closed December 26<sup>th</sup>.**

### WEATHER & EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION

*Just a Heads Up!!*

**If there is snow, sleet or freezing rain**, Father will hold all weekend Masses at the Parish Center. Check social media when in doubt.

## THE MOST INFLUENTIAL MAN OF ALL TIME

By JIM BISHOP

AMERICAN JOURNALIST & AUTHOR

READ BY ANDY WILLIAMS ON HIS CHRISTMAS CD

Millions of people celebrate the birth of the Christ Child on December 25th. Even those who don't celebrate him all agree that he has had a tremendous impact on the world. American Newspaper Journalist, Jim Bishop, wrote in his column one Christmas morning something that puts everything in perspective:

"There was a man born of Jewish parents in an obscure village. He grew up in another obscure village. He worked in a carpenter shop until he was 30, and then for three years he was an itinerate preacher. He never wrote a book, he never held office, he never owned a home, he never had a family, he never went to college, he never put his foot inside a big city, he never traveled 200 miles from the place where he was born. He never did any of the things that usually accompany greatness.

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away from him. He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. His executioners gambled for the only piece of property he had, his coat. When he was dead, he was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave. All the armies that have ever marched, all of the navies that were ever built, all of the parliaments that ever sat, all of the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon the earth as has this one solitary life."

### Thank You

Steve Skerda would like to thank the folks who prepare and deliver the meals to him. And he appreciates the folks who sent him cards.



### CONFESSIONS

At the Church

Saturday from 3:15-3:45  
before the 4 o'clock Mass.

Sunday from 7:15-7:45  
before the 8 o'clock Mass.

Or by Appointment